



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY:

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that Jami Siraj Choudhury (DOB: 8/18/64) was sentenced today by United States District Judge Rudolph T. Randa in the Eastern District of Wisconsin to 37 months imprisonment and a \$2,000 fine for violating the Arms Export Control Act. Previously, on May 17, 2003, Choudhury pled guilty to one count charging him with selling airplane engine starters to Taipei, Taiwan through California.

The Arms Export Control Act, Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778 requires that exporters obtain a validated export license from the Office of Defense Trade Controls before exporting "defense articles" from the United States.

"Defense articles" subject to the export licensing requirements are designated on the United States Munitions List by the State Department with the concurrence of the Defense Department. Items on the Munition List include aircraft used for military purposes, military aircraft engines, launching and recovery equipment specifically designed or modified for military use, and component parts and associated equipment. In the application for an export license, the exporter must state the nature of the items to be exported, the end recipient of the items, and the purpose for which the items are intended.

In order to obtain a State Department license for the exportation of any item on the Munitions List, the United States company making the transaction must be a registrant with the Office of Defense Trade Controls (ODTC) at the State Department. Prior to the license being issued, the registrant is required to provide the ODTC information concerning the end-user and destination of the munition list item. This information is necessary and critical so the ODTC can determine if the proposed export is within the national interests of the United States.

"Export licensing and restrictions are not to be deliberately evaded," said Brian Falvey, Resident Agent in Charge of the Milwaukee office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). "We take these matters extremely seriously as our national security is put at risk when persons fail to comply with export regulations. This investigation demonstrates ICE's long-standing commitment and fundamental role in securing our homeland, and sends the message that there are serious consequences for those who flaunt our nation's laws."

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic stated, “Federal law prohibits the sale and export of military parts without a license issued by the United States Department of State. These licenses require the exporter to state which country will be the ultimate recipient of these military parts. The purpose of these laws are straight forward: the United States must be able to ensure that military parts from this country do not end up in the hands of individuals and countries that threaten the security of the U.S.

The case was investigated cooperatively by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement along with the State Department Office of Defense Trade Controls and was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Lisa T. Warwick.

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